

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

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USIA FOR MEDIA REACTION, INA, IPS, IBS, IOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

1. THE OPPOSITION ISTIQLAL FRENCH DAILY L'OPINION NOV. 7
PUBLISHED AN EXCERPT FROM A PAPER "DETERMINANTS OF ALGERIA'S
FOREIGN POLICY", PUBLISHED IN ANN HARBOR, MICHIGAN IN 1973,
BY DR. MOHAMED BOUZIDI, PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL
SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RABAT, FORMER FULBRIGHT
GRANTEE AND CLOSE CONTACT OF USIS.

2. ENTITLED "AMERICAN-ALGERIAN COOPERATION", THE
EXCERPT SAID "THE TAKING OF POWER BY BOUMEDIANE IN 1965
WAS WELCOMED WITH SATISFACTION BY WASHINGTON, ACCORDING
TO THE RAND CORPORATION.. THE DETERIORATION OF AMERICAN-
ALGERIAN RELATIONS AFTER THE MIDDLE-EAST WAR OF 1967 AND
AFTER THE NATIONALIZATION OF AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES WAS
VERY BRIEF...

3. THEN A NEW ATTITUDE WAS ADOPTED TOWARDS WASHINGTON.

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THE CULMINATING POINT OF THIS CHANGE WAS MARKED BY DAVID

NEWSOM'S VISIT TO ALGIERS. NEWSOM WAS RECEIVED BY BOUMEDIENE AND DIDN'T HIDE HIS OPTIMISM CONCERNING THE NORMALIZATION OF AMERICAN-ALGERIAN RELATIONS. FURTHERMORE, FIVE MONTHS AFTER NEWSOM'S VISIT, ALGERIA BEGAN TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES ON AMERICAN POLITICAL EXILES SUCH AS ELDRIGE CLEAVER. THIS CHANGE WAS THE RESULT OF SEVERAL FACTORS. THE MOST IMPORTANT IS THAT THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT BECAME AWARE OF THE FACT THAT MORE ACTIVE ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. WOULD HELP ITS INDUSTRIALIZATION POLICY... IN 1968, THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO PAY COMPENSATION TO THE AMERICAN COMPANIES WHICH HAD BEEN NATIONALIZED.

4. AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED WITH "EL PASO NATURAL GAS" (TEXAS), INVOLVING THE PURCHASE BY THE U.S. OF 120 BILLION CUBIC METERS OF NATURAL GAS OVER A PERIOD OF 25 YEARS. IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAD BEEN BROKEN, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAW NO OBJECTION TO THAT AGREEMENT. THIS PROJECT INVOLVED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A REFINERY AT A COST OF 600 MILLION DOLLARS AND THE 'U.S. EXPORT-IMPORT BANK' PROPOSED FINANCING THIS ENTERPRISE. THIS AGREEMENT WITH EL PASO COMPANY OPENED THE DOOR TO A SERIES OF OTHER AMERICAN-ALGERIAN AGREEMENTS, BETWEEN 'SONATRACH' AND 'CORCO' IN 1971, AND WITH PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC COMPANY A LITTLE LATER. ANOTHER AGREEMENT WAS ALSO SIGNED WITH 'DISTRIGAS' OF BOSTON. AS A WHOLE, THE ALGERIAN GAS EXPORTATIONS TO THE U.S. WILL REACH THE FIGURE OF 3 THOUSAND BILLION CUBIC METERS BY THE END OF 1980 AND 5 THOUSAND BILLION CUBIC METERS BY THE END OF 1990. THEY WILL COVER ONE THIRD OF THE AMERICAN NEEDS AND WILL HELP WASHINGTON TO ATTENUATE THE EFFECTS OF THE ENERGY CRISIS.

5. COMMENT: PROFESSOR BOUZIDI CONFIRMED THAT L'OPINION HAD ASKED AND HAD BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO USE THE EXCERPT. HE SAID THE PAPER HAD BEEN WRITTEN TO COUNTER ALGERIAN PROPAGANDA TO THE EFFECT THAT MOROCCO WAS A TOOL OF CAPITALIST AMERICA. THE POST BELIEVES THE EXCERPT WAS USED PRIMARILY TO ATTACK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALGERIA AND WILL BE SO PERCEIVED BY L'OPINION READERS.
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